Electricity & water and sewerage services are to be provided by the Delhi Vidyut Board and MCD respectively. As per the latest report of the Delhi Vidyut Board the target date of electrification in Rohoni Phase III is May/June, 1998. However, Interim arragement for water and sewerage are available.

Housing problem in the Country

554. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken initiative to solve the growing housing problem in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Housing Policy envisages provision of shelter and basic amenities to all through increased supply to developed land, promotion of cost-effective building materials, fiscal concession for investment in housing, removal of legal/regulatory contstraints and easier access to housing finance.

As per the projections made by the 9th Plan Working Group a total of 16.76 million units would have to be constructed in the urban areas during the Ninth Plan period for covering housing shortage. This also includes backlog of shortage of 7.57 million dwelling units of EWS/LIG at the beginning of the 9th Plan. Out of this, 15.02 million units would be required for EWS & LIG categories down the next five years.

The National Agenda for Governance envisages construction of additional 2 million dwelling units for weaker sections every year. A Action Plan for implementation of the targets fixed under the National Agenda, which has been drawn up recently, contemplates annual addition of 7 lakhs additional units in the urban areas every year. This task could require investment of the order of Rs. 4000 crores every year. Out of this, 70% funds are expected from institutional sector, 1/3rd of which are expected to come from Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) and the rest from other Housing Finance Companies. The state governments, co-operative sectior, NGOs and informal sector would fund the balance 30% requirement.

There would be an addition of 3.5 million urban dwelling units for the weaker sections at the end of the 9th Plan period, if the targets fixed under the National Agenda were realised.

Since housing is a state subject, actual implementation of the plan lies with the State Governments. The target would be allocated among the States on the basis of parameters like the housing shortage and the demand from States. The Union Government is mainly responsible for policy formulation in this regard. The role of the Government in the housing sector would be more as a "facilitator" than as a builder. As a broad strategy for implementing the National Agenda, the emphasis will be on the shelter needs of the poor and deprived. Government is also taking steps for legal and regulatory reforms to make housing an attractive sector for investment. Government would involve private sector, and NRIs also in housing finance and shelter delivery.

Development of cities in U.P. and Bihar

555. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes for development of cities sent by State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for Central assistance during the last three years;

(b) the names and details of the cities proposed to be developed under each of these schemes alongwith likely cost of their development; and

(c) by when a decision would be taken by Government on these schemes and the reasons of delay in taking such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) IDSMT SCHEME: The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) is being implemented in all States